

Dunham Singletary

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Issue 1

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Volume 8 ©

President's Letter

Dear Family:

The beginning of a new year is an auspicious time for transition. We often celebrate with the adoption of resolutions—to spend more time with family, be better with finances, enhance our health and well being. Remember that it takes time to build new habits, to create change that stays with us, and that small changes tend to be easier to maintain. The Japanese call this *kaizen*: creating change in small increments.

DSFC will be *kaizen* too. We will hold elections for a new Board in the coming weeks. Look for correspondence from Paul Dunham and be sure to vote! Consider participating in DSFC yourself in the future.

Finally, I thank you for your ongoing interest and membership in DSFC. As I am stepping down as President, this is my final “President’s Letter” to you. I hope you’ve enjoyed my ramblings over the years. In the last newsletter I promised an update on my family history search—you’ll find it in a story from my sister in this issue, *Keeping Up With the Dunhams*.

Trudy Dunham, President

Editor's Corner

Three members of DSFC have submitted content for this first issue of Volume 8.

Sister Miriam Jo Dunham offers some information on the line of Dunhams who lived in Bladen County, North Carolina. Several genealogical researchers have tried to connect this line to its early antecedents. DNA analysis has shown this line to be separate from any of the other Dunham lines tested to date.

Rae (Dunham) Laitres has added an addendum to her fine article which appeared in DSFC Volume 3, Issue 2 with an affidavit of proof from her ancestor Levi Dunham of Montgomery, Vermont.

Austin Cornelius Dunham Barney II pointed me toward the American Thread Company Museum in Willimantic, CT where I found a lot of information on the Dunhams from Mansfield, CT.

The extremely popular ventriloquist Jeff Dunham, and his new best selling book *All By My Selves* should provide DSFC members with a most entertaining read.

Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor

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Member's Corner

Dunham-Singletary Family Connections member Miriam Jo Dunham submits the following brief summary of her life and career. Miriam Jo is sister to *DSFC* President Trudy Dunham.

Keeping Up with the Dunhams

By Miriam Jo Dunham

Greetings from the Dunhams of Bladen County, North Carolina! Even though I've never lived there myself, that's where my roots are. My grandparents lived in White Oak, North Carolina and we'd travel the 500 or so miles from the Philadelphia area to their farm each year for Christmas. The Christmas gifts were packed in the foot space of the back seat of the car and covered with blankets to make a flat "bed" for three of us four young children during the long trip. The one who was most likely to be car-sick got to sit in the front seat with our parents.

We moved to North Carolina in the early 1960s, shortening the ride to our grandparents' farm. But I missed the snow of my childhood and wanted to learn to weave, so after graduating from college I took advantage of an opportunity to head north once again, this time to Vermont and New Hampshire. For a few years I "migrated," going to New England during the summer and returning to North Carolina for the winter, pursuing my weaving and combining it with industrial textile design (at that time there were still textile mills in North and South Carolina.) To make it a profession I really needed to go to New York City, but I was too much of a country girl for that.

I was also attracted to monastic life. Listening to the voice of the Lord, I chose to follow his call and headed north once again in the late seventies to enter a Cistercian monastery in Wrentham, Massachusetts. Only later did I realize that Wrentham is a "Dunham center" but unfortunately I've never connected with those Dunhams. In between prayer and reading and singing the Psalms, I was milking cows and making chocolate candies, printing and bookbinding, and everything else that life in a Cistercian monastery entails. After about twenty years, I transferred to a sister monastery in the Netherlands, adapted to a new culture, learned a new language and a new way of thinking, made use of my weaving and design skills, and developed new translation skills. The Netherlands is quite small and quite densely populated. I was in North Brabant, a traditionally rural section, and except for the fact that it was so flat, it reminded me of my rural North Carolina home. An open-face cheese sandwich is the traditional breakfast as well as supper, with a "warm meal" being served at noon. Travel in the Netherlands is often by bicycle and, in combination with the extensive train and bus systems, it is easy to get from one place to another. Nonetheless, private automobile use has increased and daily traffic jams are now a predominant element of Dutch culture. One especially noticeable characteristic of the Netherlands is that everyone is expected to have their own opinion on everything and to express it on a moment's notice.

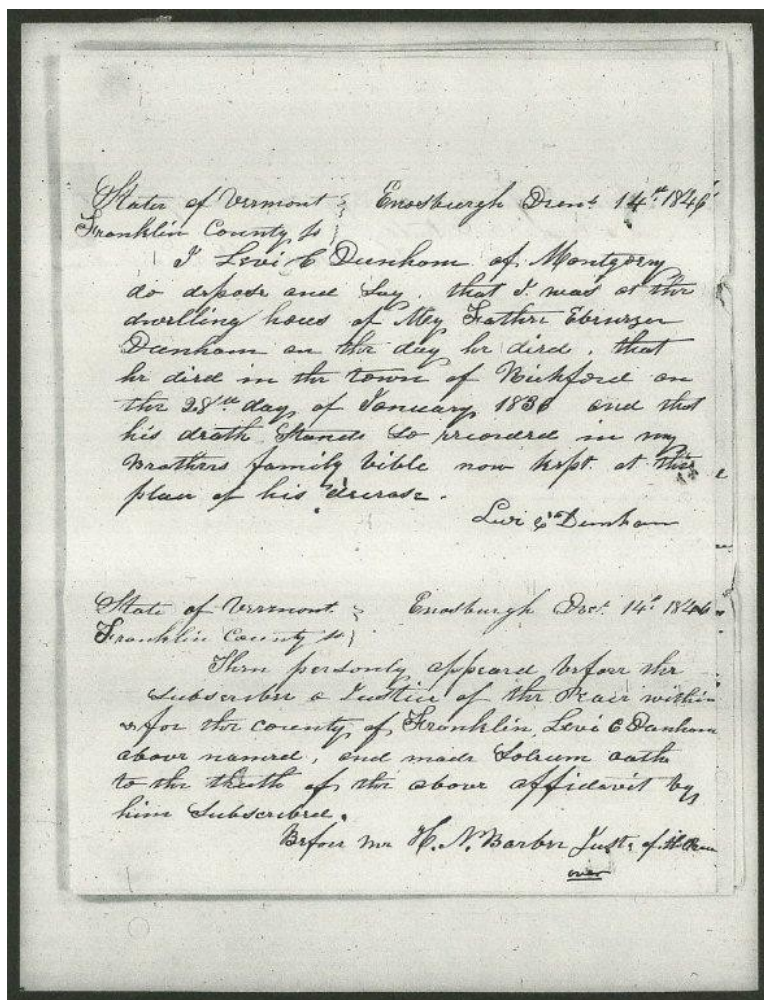
Soon after I went to the Netherlands, my sister took advantage of my new home to come and explore the country. We went to Leyden to visit the small Pilgrim's Museum there, trying to retrace the steps of the Pilgrim Dunhams who may have lived in Leyden briefly before setting out for the New World. At that point we were still under the impression that all American

Dunhams were somehow or other descended from Deacon John. Since becoming part of the Dunham DNA Project, we've learned that our branch of the Dunham clan is unique. Of the five major Dunham lines, we are "Group 3". (See the *DSFC* website, Sam Dunnam's article, [DNA Studies: A Major New Tool of Genealogical Research](#), *DSFC Newsletter*, October 2004, (Vol. 1, No. 1) and Gratia Dunham Mahony's article, [National Geographic Society Genographic Project: An Update on the Project and the Results as they pertain to DUNHAMS](#), *DSFC Newsletter*, July 2008, (Vol. 5, No. 3) for more information on the Dunham DNA Project.

We're descended from William Randolph Dunham (born ca. 1770, died September 3, 1828) and his second wife Elizabeth Singletary (born ca. 1774, died 1820). William Randolph is believed to be the second child of Joseph Dunham (born ca. 1739), about whom little is known. William's sister, Mary Dunham (born 1769, died November 9, 1827), was married to Snowden Singletary (born ca. 1764-1768, died November 9, 1827); they had no known children. James Snowden Dunham was the only child of William and Elizabeth (Singletary) Dunham known to have descendants living today. Family members from lines descending from two of James Snowden Dunham's sons have participated in the DNA testing project; one descendant of Jonathan Robeson Dunham (born November 26, 1832, died January 26, 1907) and two descendants of John Alexander Dunham (born November 30, 1834, died December 12 or 13, 1862). These test results suggest that the Bladen County Dunham Family is its own line, distinct from the other Southern Dunham lines of South Carolina and Tennessee. There is speculation that Matilda Grace Dunham, unknown to us, might be a daughter of William Randolph Dunham. She was born in South Carolina in 1804, married Richard Jessie Cheshire (born in Bladen County in 1803), died in 1861 in Lumpkin, Stewart county, Georgia, and has descendants living in Texas today.

When I was young, I knew all my first cousins, but after growing up and moving off in our own directions, we'd begun to lose track of one another. We tried a family website, but it never really caught on. Recently one of our generation was seriously ill and we used email to connect. Now we're using email to share family events and concerns, we've updated our branch of the family tree, and we're exploring our genealogical origins in Bladen County with the help of a local professional. It's difficult because many records were destroyed during the Civil War. If anyone has information about or interest in our Bladen County Dunhams/Singletarys we'd love to hear from you. And you'd be welcome at our Dunham family reunion, held each year on the 4th Sunday of June at Bethlehem Methodist Church in White Oak, North Carolina.

Editor's Note: The entire line of descent from Joseph Dunham through his son William Randolph² and Elizabeth (Singletary) Dunham, as compiled by Trudy and Miriam Jo Dunham, is currently being put on the web site of *Dunham Families in America*. That web site can be seen at <http://dunham2000.ipower.com/Index.html> This line is carried out under the section: *Dunham Families of the American South*. The reason it has been placed in that section is because of the prevalence of connections with the Singletary Family. This will be the second group of Dunham Families in that section, and may be somehow linked to the first group of Dunham Families which has been researched by Rev. James T. Dunnam. This first group documents the family of *John Dunnam of South Carolina and Children* who lived primarily in south Carolina. That line also has connections to the Singletary Family.



Affidavit of Levi Dunham

Addendum to article by
DSFC member Rae Laitres in
Dunham-Singletary Family
Connections, Volume 3,
Issue 2, dated 15 April, 2006.

My Ancestor Ebenezer Dunham (1818-1906)

Analysis of Paternity

By

Rae (Dunham) Laitres

Editor's Note: Reference should be made to the article in Volume 3, Issue 2, pages 2-8. This is an example of a thoroughly documented genealogical study. Circumstantial evidence gathered at the time indicated very strongly that Levi⁷ Dunham was indeed a son of Ebenezer⁶ Dunham. Now, four years later, Rae Laitres has found absolute proof in this document.

In an email received in September of 2010 Rae Laitres states: "During the first week of July www.footnote.com made their information on Revolutionary War Pension Applications available for a few days free of charge.

"I found Levi's affidavit, proving my analysis correct, in the widow's application file of Hannah (Stevens) (Lawrence) Dunham. She applied for her pension based on the service of her first husband, John Lawrence, who served from the State of New Hampshire. As John's widow, she married Ebenezer Dunham in 1825, only a few months after Ebenezer lost his wife."

The affidavit given in Enosburgh, Franklin County, Vermont Dec. 14, 1846 states:
"I Levi C. Dunham of Montgomery do depose and say that I was at the dwelling house of my father Ebenezer Dunham on the day he died, that he died in the town of Richford on the 28th day of January 1836 and that his death stands so recorded in my fathers family bible now kept at the place of his residence."

Rae's Dunham line begins with Deacon John¹ Dunham, Joseph², Eleazer³, Israel⁴, Ebenezer⁵, Ebenezer⁶, Levi Chase⁷ Dunham who gave the affidavit, Ebenezer⁸ Dunham (1818-1906).



Austin Cornelius Dunham ¹¹ Barney II *

Austin Cornelius Dunham Barney II

In May 2006 your editor met Austin Cornelius Dunham ¹¹ Barney for lunch in Simsbury, Connecticut. “Dunny”, as he likes to be called, gave me a lot of family history information on his Dunham ancestry. He also suggested that I visit the mills in Willamantic, Connecticut in which several generations of his family had been deeply involved. Four years later I finally got to Willimantic, and the following article is the result of that visit.

The Dunhams from Mansfield, Connecticut

*By Gratia Dunham Mahony and A. C. D. Barney II
With information supplied by The American Thread Company Museum*

One line of the Dunham descendants of Deacon John Dunham settled in Mansfield, Connecticut. The head of this third generation household must have been a very courageous lady because after her husband died she carried out the resettlement of the family from Barnstable, Massachusetts to Mansfield, Connecticut. Probably the move had been planned prior to the death of John ³ Dunham and land along the Willimantic River already purchased. John ³ Dunham was only 48 years old when he died and his wife was about the same age.

This Dunham line begins with Deacon John ¹ Dunham and his first wife Susan Kaino. Their first child, another John, was baptized in 19 February 1614/15 Henlow, Bedfordshire, England; died at Plymouth, Massachusetts 6 April 1692 in his 77th year. **John ² Dunham** married about 1640 **Mary** whose maiden name is unknown. She died in Plymouth, Massachusetts 20 March 1698.

The oldest son of John ² and Mary (unknown) Dunham was **John ³ Dunham**. John ³ was born in Plymouth about 1647-8; died in Barnstable 2 January 1696 in his 48th year. John married 1 March 1679/80 **Mary Smith**, daughter of Rev. John and Susanna (Hinckley) Smith. She was born in Barnstable in November 1647; died after 6 June 1702 when she was of Mansfield, Connecticut.

** This line begins with Deacon John ¹ Dunham, John ², John ³, Ebenezer ⁴, Ebenezer ⁵, Nathaniel ⁶ Austin ⁷, Austin Cornelius ⁸ Laura ⁹ married Danford N. Barney, Austin Cornelius Dunham ¹⁰ Barney, Austin Cornelius Dunham ¹¹ Barney.*

John ³ Dunham was not an original proprietor of Barnstable. He bought land in Barnstable, on Cape Cod about 1685, and was granted 30 acres more in 1689. He lived in an area near the Herring River now called Indian Ponds, or Hamblin's Plain. in 1692 he was deputy to the general court. He was a member of the church first at Plymouth, then at Barnstable. In the baptism of his first child at Barnstable in 1683, it was noted of John: "being a member at Plymouth".

The third son of John ³ and Mary (Smith) Dunham was **Ebenezer ⁴ Dunham**. He was born in Barnstable, MA 17 April 1684; died in Mansfield, CT 17 November 1747. He is probably buried in Gurley Cemetery, Mansfield CT as are many of the family. This old cemetery is also known as the Pink Cemetery, or the Pink Ravine Cemetery. It is located on Bone Mill road in Mansfield, Tolland County, Connecticut. Ebenezer married first in Plymouth 2 May 1707 **Anne Ford**, who died before February 1744/5. Ebenezer married second in Mansfield, Connecticut 21 February 1744/5 **Annis Atwood** who died 27 January 1777.

Ebenezer ⁴ Dunham first settled in Plymouth, but in 1720 sold his home and blacksmith shop in Plymouth and removed to Mansfield where the rest of his family was living. He located at what is now called Mansfield Depot.

Ebenezer ⁵ Dunham (Ebenezer ⁴ John ^{3,2,1}) son of Ebenezer ⁴ and Anne (Ford) Dunham was born in Plymouth in 1719; died in Mansfield 18 September 1775. He is buried in the Gurley Cemetery, Mansfield, CT. Ebenezer married in Mansfield, CT 4 November 1741 **Phebe Ladd**, daughter of Nathaniel and Abigail (Bodwell) Ladd of Coventry. She was born in 1726; died in 1816. She is buried in the Gurley Cemetery, Mansfield CT. Ebenezer ⁵ Dunham served during the French and Indian War, Campaign of 1755.

When the Revolutionary war broke out, six of the seven sons of Ebenezer ⁵ and Phebe (Ladd) Dunham joined the Continental Army. Nathaniel ⁶ Dunham would likely have served also, but he was underage. This is a very remarkable record, but what is perhaps more wonderful is that they all came home and lived to a good old age.

Children of Ebenezer ⁵ and Phebe (Ladd) Dunham: born in Mansfield CT

- i. Eleazer ⁶ Dunham b. 2 July 1744
- ii. Phebe ⁶ Dunham b. 28 October 1746, d. 4 September 1748
- iii. Daniel ⁶ Dunham b. 26 December 1748
- iv. Phebe/Phoebe ⁶ Dunham b. 4 January 1751
- v. Eunice ⁶ Dunham b. 28 December 1752
- vi. Samuel ⁶ Dunham b. 22 September 1754
- vii. Jonathan ⁶ Dunham b. 6 April 1758
- viii. Anna ⁶ Dunham b. 10 May 1760
- ix. Stephen ⁶ Dunham b. 4 May 1761
- x. James ⁶ Dunham b. 18 October 1763
- xi. Nathaniel ⁶ Dunham b. 6 January 1766**
- xii. Rhoda ⁶ Dunham b. 3 March 1767

Nathaniel⁶ Dunham (Ebenezer^{5,4} John^{3,2,1}) born in Mansfield, Tolland County, Connecticut 6 January 1766; died before 1831, the date of his probate record. The death date found on the headstone in the Gurley Cemetery is 24 December 1830. Nathaniel⁶ married **Eunice Dimmock** who is named in his probate. There is a headstone in the Gurley Cemetery for Eunice Dunham who died 17 March, 1844 which is probably for Eunice (Dimmock) Dunham.

Children of Nathaniel⁶ & Eunice (Dimmock) Dunham named in probate of Nathaniel⁶ Dunham.

- i. **Austin⁷ Dunham b. 1807**
- ii. Henry⁷ Dunham
- iii. Alpheus⁷ Dunham b. prob. d.y., unm., NOT named in probate
- iv. Oliver Dimmock⁷ Dunham
- v. Mary⁷ Dunham
- vi. Lucius⁷ Dunham
- vii. Samuel⁷ Dunham
- viii. Chauncey⁷ Dunham

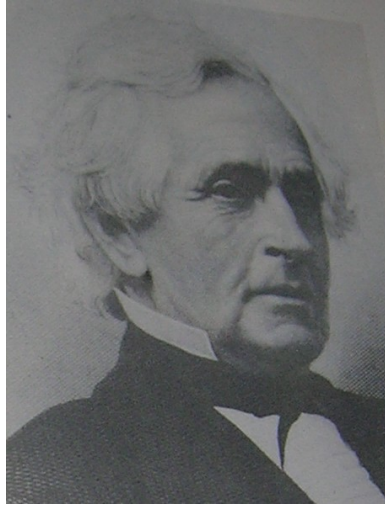
Austin⁷ Dunham—Early Entrepreneur

Austin⁷ Dunham (Nathaniel⁶ Dunham, Ebenezer^{5,4} John^{3,2,1}) born in Mansfield, Tolland County, Connecticut in 1807; died 12 in Hartford March 1877. He married **Martha Root** and they lived in South Coventry, Connecticut until about 1835 when they moved to Hartford, Connecticut.

Austin⁷ Dunham grew up and lived in Hartford where his career included involvement in corporations such as the Willimantic Linen Company of which he was President, Aetna Life Insurance Company, and The Travelers Insurance Company. An article written nearly a year after his death appeared in the *Travelers Record*, Volume XIV, Number 3, June 1878 and characterized Austin Dunham as having “the best type of New England character.” The article went on to say of Austin Dunham “His life has been altogether that of a business man, and his uncommonly clear judgment, sagacity as to ways and means and out looks, and power of will, assured to him success and made him master in whatever he undertook. It is rare to find such a union as there was in him of shrewdness and caution with hopeful buoyancy; he always looked upon the bright side of things, as well as on the good side of people...”

Willimantic Linen Company

One of the most enterprising business ventures in which Austin⁷ Dunham participated was the development of the Willimantic Linen Company. The town of Willimantic is located about 13 miles south east of Hartford on the Willimantic River. Prior to the Civil War several small cotton manufacturing mills were being operated in Willimantic.



Austin ⁷ Dunham (1807-1877)

Photo complimentary of American Thread Company, Willimantic, Connecticut

The following excerpt from *Willimantic Industry and Community; the Rise and Decline of a Connecticut Textile City*, by Thomas R. Beardsley, pub. 1993 by Windham Textile and History Museum, best describes the ventures of Austin Dunham in the Willimantic Linen Company:

From p. 18;

“Two Hartford business men, Lawson Ives and Austin Dunham became involved in Willimantic industry in 1845, when they went into partnership with William L. Jillson and John H. Capen to form the Welles Manufacturing Company. Ives and Dunham financed the building of a three-story mill on the site of Perry Richmond’s original premises, along with a number of row houses.

Ives and Dunham invested in the production of coarse linen goods and formed the Willimantic Linen Company on February 18, 1854. The company first produced linen but in 1857 installed the latest English cotton machinery in their mill. They had been convinced by a man named William B. Riddle that cotton thread would be a more profitable item than linen cloth. Ives and Dunham kept the name “Willimantic Linen Company” until it was taken over by the American Thread Company in 1898.

In 1858 Austin Dunham bought out Capen and Jillson, and formed the Dunham Manufacturing Company. By 1861, Dunham was employing 44 hands and producing 352,000 yards of cotton warp. In 1870, Dunham employed 60 men, 30 women, and 20 children under 16 years of age. They produced almost \$200,000 worth of yarns and warp each year in a mill powered by two water wheels and one 250 hp steam engine.”

From p. 22;

“The Willimantic Linen Company wisely stockpiled raw materials during the late 1850s, in anticipation of the Civil War. The subsequent shortage of raw cotton greatly increased its value,

and Ives and Dunham made massive profits, augmented by strict protectionist measures which limited competition from abroad. By 1862 the Linen Company's cotton thread was sold, at a massive profit, to fulfill a large U. S. Government order for union Army uniforms. Thanks to its stockpile, the Linen Company was immune from the cotton famine being experienced in other New England mills."

From p. 27;

"Despite the attendant social problems, the Willimantic Linen Company experienced unprecedented growth after 1866. British cotton thread dominated the antebellum domestic market, but restrictions on imports, and the dollar's wartime devaluation increased the price of British cotton fourfold, enabling Willimantic spool cotton to dominate the home market during the war and reconstruction years. The thread was considered to be: 'equal to the finest imported English cotton.' It runs in sewing machines as well as silk twist and has the additional merit of cheapness.

By the mid 1870s William Elliot Barrows was hired by the Willimantic Linen Company to organize its finances. The Linen Company's six-cord cotton thread was so successful that shareholders received astronomical returns. The wealthy Company constantly looked for ways to further invest in its future growth. It paid excellent wages and provided first class accommodation for its workers.

Austin ⁷ Dunham's health began to fail and in March 1877. The company's progressive reputation increased after founder Austin Dunham passed control to his liberal-minded son, Austin Cornelius ⁸ Dunham (who was responsible for hiring Barrows in 1874.) The Willimantic Linen Company Mill Number Three was destined to be the scene of some exciting experiments in electrical lighting, carried out Austin Cornelius ⁸ Dunham."

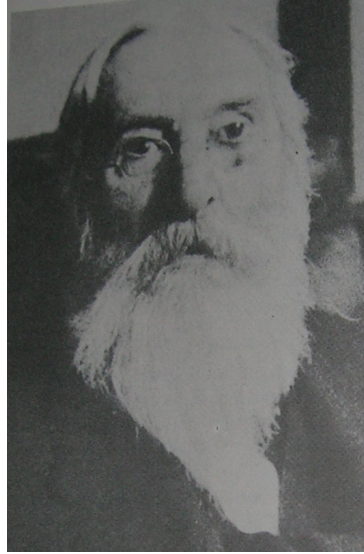
From p. 33;

"Under the management of Barrows and his progressive ideas regarding labor reform the Willimantic Linen Company built a company store-and-library, a dance pavilion, advanced housing, and the largest mill in the world containing a special ambience thanks to the colored glass in its windows and its numerous tropical flowers and plants. Barrows also provided social and educational programs. The money spent on these social improvements alienated many of the profit-starved directors at the Willimantic Linen Company during the early 1880s."

DUNHAM HALL LIBRARY

On Saturday, March 2, 1878 Barrows opened his pet project in the top story of his new store—a company library and reading rooms. Barrows stocked his library with 600 volumes, all gifts from wealthy benefactors enriched from being Willimantic Linen Company shareholders. Four hundred books were checked out on the opening day.

The library was dedicated to the memory of the Company's founder, Austin Dunham, and named Dunham Hall. The library's numerous visitors worked under the austere stare of Austin Dunham, whose eyes seemed to follow borrowers around the library. Dunham's portrait had been painted in 1880 by Charles Noel Flagg who composed the portrait from photographs of Dunham that had been sent to him in Paris.



Austin Cornelius ⁸ Dunham (1834-1918)

Photo complimentary of American Thread Company, Willimantic, Connecticut

Austin Cornelius ⁸ Dunham **Early Steps Toward Implementing Electric Light in the Mill**

The oldest son of Austin ⁷ and Martha (Root) Dunham was **Austin Cornelius ⁸ Dunham** b. 10 June, 1834 in South Coventry, Connecticut. At the time of his father's death in 1877, he was a successful, energetic, and talented businessman and engineer. He was also a personal friend of Thomas Edison. He took over the presidency of the Willimantic Linen Company at an important time.

Austin Cornelius ⁸ Dunham was intrigued by the promise of the emerging electrical technology, and in December 1878, he instructed William Eliot Barrows to purchase one of Charles Brush's latest arc light systems to illuminate the winding room in Mill Number Two. This was done and a demonstration of the new electric arc lights took place before a large number of distinguished guests.

In 1880, under the direction of Austin Cornelius ⁸ Dunham a huge new mill building known as Mill Number Four, was begun. It was the first textile mill to be built entirely on a single story, with special underground chambers to accommodate driving shafts and belts. These pulleys and belts were out of sight, so the mill could be illuminated by the new electric arc lights hung from an unencumbered ceiling. The Willimantic Linen Company became known worldwide as a pioneer in electric lighting.

The Willimantic Linen Company began to have reservations about the Brush arc light system. Because of the ever present fear of fire the arc lights were not used in buildings where bleaching and dyeing processes were conducted.



Mill Number Two—Willimantic Linen Company
(later known as The American Thread Company)

Thomas Edison's Incandescent Light Bulb

About this time, Thomas Edison was busy perfecting an incandescent electric light in New Jersey. A. C. Dunham kept himself apprised of this process. It is not clear just how closely A. C. Dunham and Thomas Edison worked together, but surely each was well aware of the progress of the developing technology of electric lighting.

The Brush arc lights continued to illuminate the Linen Company's mills for almost two years. However, problems arose because the arc light's naked spark often ignited cotton particles and dust. Accordingly, in September 1882, Dunham invited Thomas Edison to demonstrate his incandescent lights (enclosed in a glass bulb) in Mill Number Two.

When the incandescent light was perfected, the company dispensed with the Brush arc light system, and in 1882 purchased Edison's newest invention, an "incandescent plant, which was adopted throughout the mill, and gradually replaced the brush arc light system.

Electric Lighting Outdoors

A. C. Dunham had a sharp eye for publicity. He offered to light Hartford's State Capitol with his electric arc lights. September 17, 1879 marked the anniversary of the Civil War battle of Antietam. The Connecticut Legislature designated the date "Battle Flag Day". An impressive parade was planned and civil war veterans carried civil War battle flags from the old Hartford arsenal to the State Capitol. Over 30,000 people remained in Bushnell Park following the parade to witness the illumination of the Capitol building after sunset. Austin Cornelius Dunham had instructed that the arc lights were to be transported from the Mill in Willimantic to Hartford. They were installed in Bushnell Park by Willimantic Linen company employees and the crowd was amazed by the light display.

Public interest in the commercial use of electricity for lighting rose rapidly and by 1881 the Connecticut General Assembly had several petitions for incorporation of electric light companies. The Hartford Electric Light Company began operations on April 7, 1883, when it inaugurated commercial electric service at sundown with a lighting demonstration at Hartford's Union Station. Through wires strung along building walls and rooftops from the steam engine-generator direct current was supplied to 21 arc lamps to illuminate the railroad depot, and several businesses on Pearl Street in Hartford.

Hartford Electric Light Company

Austin Cornelius Dunham and fellow Linen Company director Morgan G. Bulkeley, along with other industrial entrepreneurs organized the American Electric Company. Later Dunham and Bulkeley became involved with the Hartford Electric Light Company [HELCO]. Austin Cornelius Dunham became the first president of HELCO. A. C. Dunham died in at his vacation home in St. Petersburg, Florida 17 March 1918.

One of the legacies left by A. C. Dunham were a collection of memoirs and stories about his childhood, including stories about the mills, and about the inception of the insurance business. These were originally published in *The Hartford Daily Courant*. The stories and articles were later collected and published in a book entitled "*Reminiscences of Austin C. Dunham*." *Reminiscences of Austin C. Dunham*, Hartford, CT. published by Case, Lockwood and Brainard in 1913 may be seen on line at <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008418406> .

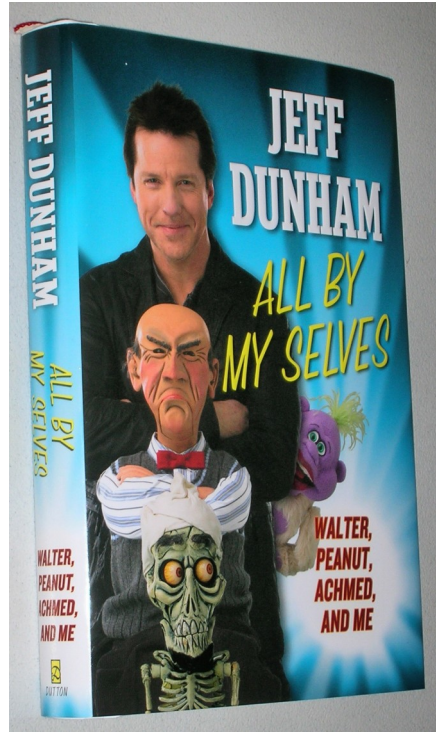
In 1951, the position of Chairman of the Board of HELCO was filled by Austin Dunham Barner, son of Danford Newton and Laura B. ⁹ (Dunham) Barney, and grandson of A. C. Dunham. Austin C. Dunham ¹⁰ Barney was born in 1896. He had joined HELCO in 1924 as legal counsel and became President in 1946.

Another son of Danford Newton and Laura B. (Dunham) Barney was Philip Cushman ¹⁰ Barney born 22 November 1906; died 25 December 1978. He married first Sarah Wamboldt and had three children; Danford Newton, Philip Cushman, Jr. and Patricia Redfield Barney. Philip Cushman Barney married second Elisabeth Cole Freeman and had two sons; Alanson Charles Brown, and Austin Cornelius Dunham ¹¹ Barney, II, of Simsbury, Connecticut.

NEW BOOK by JEFF DUNHAM

by Gratia D. Mahony

For a number of years I've wondered about ventriloquist Jeff Dunham. Other members of DSFC have wondered too, and several years ago I was asked by another member if I could find out his Dunham line. Now, for the first time, we learn his family's Dunham heritage because of a new book published in November 2010 and written by ventriloquist/comedian Jeff Dunham.



ALL BY MY SELVES, the fascinating story of Jeff's career as an entertainer, was completed in June of 2010 and just published by Dutton publishing company. It is already a "best seller". The book describes the story of what began as a hobby and progressed through numerous trials and successes to the point of his career today where he is called America's favorite comedian. Jeff Dunham tells this story with wit and honesty, always giving credit to his understanding and very supportive parents.

On the first page in his book Jeff Dunham tells us a little bit about himself. "I've had to work really hard at being funny because pretty much everything for me as a kid was positive, uneventful, and almost boring. Sure, Lady Godiva and William the Conqueror are somewhere in the Dunham lineage, but I was adopted." "My parents, Howard and Joyce Dunham, adopted me a few months after my birth in April of 1962. I had a happy, drama-free youth, growing up in an upper-middle class neighborhood in Dallas, Texas. The only thing that was slightly unusual compared to most of my friends was that I was an only child,...I don't think that's why my parents gave me a dummy—at least they've never copped to it."

Jeff goes on to tell about the orange-haired, bucktoothed ventriloquist dummy that his parents gave him for Christmas when he was eight years old. He tells about the long hours he spent learning to project his voice without moving his lips, and making up jokes so that he could impress his classmates and make them laugh. Jeff recounts the development of his little posse of "figures" named Jose, the jalapeno on a steak, Walter, Peanut, Achmed and the others.

The Dunham Lineage of Howard Dunham

Jeff Dunham states : "My mother and my father have always supported me. Now in their eighties, they actually clamber onto the tour bus with me once or twice a year so they can watch the performances and hear the crowds. Traveling with eighty-something year olds on a tour bus..." Those few sentences gave me the clue that I needed to locate Jeff's father, Howard Dunham, in the 1930 census and from that I was able to trace the Dunham lineage back to Deacon John Dunham.

The 1930 census of University Park, Dallas, Texas shows:

Howard Dunham 32 Real Estate salesman b. KS (so b. about 1898) both parents b. OH

Mary Dunham 28 b. TX father b. LA mother b. TX

Howard Dunham 2 b. TX

(Note: this young boy, b. about 1928, was the father of Jeff Dunham)

Both the 1920 census and the 1900 census show Howard Dunham born about 1894.

The 1900 census shows the family of Howard Dunham living in Joplin, Jasper Co. Missouri.

N. W. Dunham 35 b. OH (This is Norton W. Dunham)

Clara Dunham 34 b. OH

Jessie M. Dunham 8 b. KS

Howard Dunham 6 b. KS

Norton W. Dunham was born in Ohio in March 1865, the son of Elijah and Abigail M. (--) Dunham. Norton W. Dunham married Clara (--).

The Dunham line back from Elijah Dunham was:

Levi Dunham b. 18 Dec. 1780 in Glastonbury, Hartford Co. CT

m. Belinda Porter

Levi Dunham b. 2 December 1745 Hebron, Tolland Co. CT

m. Anna Waddam

Isaac Dunham b. 1711

m. Jerusha Loomis

Nathaniel Dunham of Wrentham MA and Hebron, CT

As of this writing it is still not proven through DNA analysis whether this Dunham line is part of the Deacon John Dunham line, or a separate Dunham line. Please see the web site *Dunham Families in America* <http://dunham2000.ipower.com/Index.html> and scroll down on left side of the home page to *Dunham Families of Wrentham, MA and Hebron, CT*.